

Region: Northwest

Site Information: Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Inc.
5460 N. 64th Street
Milwaukee WI 53218

Site Contact Person/Title: Anthony McHenry, Assistant Executive Director
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Billing Contact Name: Laurie Schneiderwent **Phone:** (414) 463-7950

Is agency Medicaid certified? no **Faith-based Organization:** no
Minority or Disadvantaged Vendor: no

Facility Accessibility:

• Offers handicapped parking	• Is wheelchair accessible
• Has a location near public transportation	

Specializations:

- Programs for Women
- Services for Pregnant Women
- Programs for Men
- Programs for Men and Women
- Services for Families with Children (Childcare Provided)
- Services for Persons Involved in the Criminal Justice System

Hours of Operations:

Monday:	6am-9pm	Tuesday:	6am-9pm
Wednesday:	6am-9pm	Thursday:	6am-9pm
Friday:	6am-9pm	Saturday:	9am-3pm
Sunday:	N/A	Emergency Contact 24 Hour Phone Number: N/A	

Program Description

Good vocational assessment is a pre-requisite for successful transition to work planning. Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (SSNC) staff members utilize the TABE achievement test to determine adult basic education levels. They will employ the Career Occupational Preference Survey (COPS) for assessing occupational interests. Consisting of 168 items, COPS provides job activity interest scores in 14 areas. These areas are matched with occupational information. Vocational aptitudes will be assessed by giving participants the Career Ability Placement Survey (CAPS), a companion survey to COPS. Two free Internet vocational evaluation tools, *The Career Key*, which is a free service to help people with career choices, career changes, & career planning, as well as job search, and *Motivational Appraisal of Personal Potential*, which provides a personalized report on preferred job tasks and jobs that fit the profile, will also be used with participants.

Assessment of W-2 participants' interests, abilities, and preferences is crucial to the placement or referral of W-2 participants for employment or for vocational training or college. Without a proper assessment, these participants may be placed or referred for employment or training programs which have little to do with their personal aspirations or employment/career goals.

SSNC Staff Members will review the results of all the assessments with each individual in a case conference to discuss the outcome of the assessment. The case conferences are highly interactive, and W-2 participants will be encouraged to make tentative predictions regarding their future employment, training and/or education. SSNC staff will assist the W-2 participants in examining the relationship between their interests and aptitudes in order to identify realistic employment or training and educational options.

Special emphasis will be placed on assisting W-2 participants to seek and find employment that offers a career ladder. The first job or position should be just a steppingstone to a higher paying position with more responsibility and interest for the participant. The W-2 participant with assistance from SSNC staff will develop a career plan that starts with an initial job or training program and then progresses on a career path to the job or position that the W-2 participant really desires. The career plan will also identify additional training or education that will be needed to achieve desired career goals. As previously stated, SSNC staff will help the W-2 participants to identify realistic career goals based on their achievement tests and aptitudes.

It is important to note that SSNC has a longstanding collaborative partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) that dates back to 1971. W-2 participants will be connected with additional vocational testing at MATC as appropriate depending on their unique interests and aptitudes. SSNC also has a collaborative partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Education Opportunity Center (UWM EOC). SSNC's partnership with UWM EOC has greatly benefited hundreds of SSNC's adult education students by helping them overcome barriers to higher education and employment, providing them with career guidance and informing them about available student financial aid.

Some W-2 participants face barriers to employment such as lack of or poor work history, bad attitude, bad references, lack of work related skills, criminal record, addictions, appearance, transportation, lack of confidence, illiteracy, mental illness, etc. Therefore, just as it is crucially important to assess interests and abilities in developing a career plan, it is vitally important to identify barriers to employment and to develop a creative plan for overcoming those employment barriers. SSNC Job Coach, Stu Jackson, has special training in this area and, acting on the belief that no one is unemployable, will work one-on-one with W-2 participants to determine any barriers to employment and to develop strategies and a plan for surmounting any and all barriers.

Some W-2 participants have special needs. Career planning will take these needs into consideration, and participants will be connected with appropriate service providers such as the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and MATC.

For more detailed information about SSNC programs and services contact Stu Jackson by phone at 414-463-7950 ext. 60 or by e-mail at sjackson@ssnc-milw.org.